

## DIVINE MERCY FRATERNITY • SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

Vero Beach, Florida  
www.franciscan-sfo.org

**Regular Meeting:** Sunday, May 16, 2010, at 2:00 PM, North Room of St. Helen's Parish Center. The Council Meeting to follow.

**Agenda and Schedule for the Regular Meeting**

- 2:00 Opening Prayer, Reports, Old/New Business
- 2:20 Blessing of the Donations to the Food Pantry
- 2:25 Ongoing Formation: Article 14 of the Secular Franciscan Order Rule Book.  
Discussion to be lead by Donna Haro.
- 3:10 Refreshments and Break
- 3:30 Candidacy of Ben and Virginia
- 3:40 Liturgy of Hours
- 4:00 Closing prayer and dismissal
- 4:15 Council Meeting

**Reminder:** The May meeting will be the THIRD Sunday of the Month because the Second Sunday is Mothers' Day.

**Refreshment Committee:**

Snacks: Rolanda Dahon and Virginia Davis  
Beverage: Ben Davis

**Remember in your prayers:** Fred Schaeffer, Marie Fee, Jack Solloway, Pat Riordan and all professed Franciscans in our Florida region who are ill, as well as those members of our Fraternity who cannot attend our meetings regularly.

**From the Minister's Desk:** In honor of the Blessed Mother, a poem written by St. Francis:  
"The Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary" (*See next page*)

**Happy Mother's Day!**

Fraternity  
Officers

**Minister:** Peggy Rysdyke, SFO  
**Vice-Minister:** Donna M. Haro, SFO  
**Secretary:** Helen Caldarone, SFO  
**Treasurer:** Sarah Hardy, SFO

**Formation Director:** Eugene Caldarone, SFO  
**Councillors-at-Large:** Kathleen Van Buskirk, SFO,  
Adele Lamour, SFO, Fred Schaeffer, SFO  
**Spir. Assisitant:** *vacant*

*A Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

*Hail, O Lady, Holy Queen,  
Mary, holy Mother of God,  
Who are the Virgin made Church,  
chosen by the most Holy Father in heaven  
whom he consecrated with His most holy beloved Son  
and with the Holy Spirit the Paraclete,  
in whom there was and is  
all fullness of grace and every good.*

*Hail His Palace!*

*Hail His Tabernacle!*

*Hail His Dwelling!*

*Hail His Robe!*

*Hail His Servant!*

*Hail His Mother!*

*And hail all You holy virtues  
which are poured into the hearts of the faithful  
through the grace and enlightenment of the Holy Spirit,  
that from being unbelievers,  
You may make them faithful to God.*



## Chapter Two - The Way of Life

### Article 14 – The Spirit of Service

***Secular Franciscans, together with all people of good will, are called to build a more fraternal and evangelical world so that the kingdom of God may be brought about more effectively. Mindful that anyone "who follows Christ, the perfect man, becomes more of a man himself," let them exercise their responsibilities competently in the Christian spirit of service.***

#### Discussion

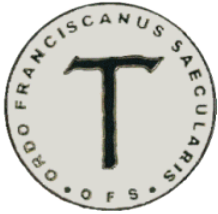
- As Franciscans we have chosen a life of service to the brothers, sisters in our community and people in other communities.
- Thinking about the scripture list some examples of Christ serving others. What else was Christ doing when He was acting as a servant?
- List some forms of service, based on scripture, that will help bring about equality for all people.
- Since Christ is our model for service, how did He go about it?
- What did Christ teach us about the way we serve? Give an example.
- What do we mean by the term fraternal? What can we do to make it more fraternal? How fraternal is your world? Your family? Your workplace?

Giving service to another provides us an opportunity to support others and increase the many virtues of Franciscan life. Select several services we may have an opportunity to perform. Describe the service, how we might go about offering it and what virtue we strengthen when we practice the service.

As a Secular Franciscan, "the Christian spirit of service" can be calling us at this time. Give an example of a service your fraternity does not currently support and suggest how you might go about that service in your community? Could this service also include the participation of other local and regional fraternities?

- We can always be more sacrificing for the sake of others. However, there is always a balance between the duties to our family and our fraternity that must be maintained. How do we ensure that we maintain a "Christ-like" balance between our dual obligations to serve as a Secular Franciscan?





## *The Franciscan Family Supports the Holy Father*

**Conference of the Franciscan Family**

Rome, April 11, 2010

### Letter of solidarity to Pope Benedict XVI

Your Holiness,

May the Lord give you peace!

With this greeting revealed to Saint Francis by the Most High, we the Ministers of the great Franciscan Family, we pray that the Risen Lord will give you His peace in this most difficult moment for the Church and for you, to whom the Risen Lord has entrusted the task of “confirming the brothers in faith”.

Your Holiness, with this Paschal greeting, we express our sympathy, our communion and solidarity in the face of the attacks coming from the ‘media’ of different countries, intending to dishonor Your Person because of the crime of pedophilia committed by some members of the Church. Yes, those are atrocious crimes, but this way of generalizing is not just, because the result is to affect the extraordinarily greater majority of priests-religious, who live to obey the fundamental commandment to “announce the Good News and work exclusively for the good of the People of God.

By expressing our solidarity, we also desire, Your Holiness, to manifest to you publicly our gratitude for the discretion, the clarity, the firmness and the compassion shown toward the victims of these abuses, in facing the several painful situations that have taken place in different parts of the world and which risk to cover so much good that the ecclesial community does. Your attitude gives us comfort and encourages us to respond courageously and, at the same time, in a merciful way, to similar cases within our Family.

Thank you, Your Holiness, for the witness of faith, of serenity, of profound and silent suffering with which you face the storm which is strongly hitting Peter’s “boat”.

Hoping that the assurance of our constant and affectionate prayer to the merciful Father, will be of comfort to Your Holiness, in order “that the days of the Passion” may soon be over and that the light of the Resurrection may shine more brightly “in the midst of sadness and the negative aspects” of the journey of the Church at present, with the certainty of the promise of the Risen Lord: “I am with you always, up to the end of the world”.

Most devotedly your sons in Christ and in Saint Francis

Br. José Rodríguez Carballo  
Minister General OFM

Br. Michael Higgins  
Minister General TOR

Br. Marco Tasca  
Minister General OFMConv.

Encarnación del Pozo  
Minister General OFS

Br. Mauro Jöhri  
Minister General OFMCap.

Br. James Puglisi  
Minister Generale Atonement